

REMARKS

The applicant affirms the election of apparatus Claims 1-8, 15, 16, and 18-25 for prosecution. The non-elected claims have been cancelled.

Independent Claim 1 defines the invention as a preform multi-layered molding material that includes a layer of a fibrous reinforcement material and a layer of a reinforcement resin material. The inherent tack of the reinforcement resin layer holds the fibrous reinforcement material in place, and the reinforcement material is at least partially dry with respect to the reinforcement resin. The reinforcement resin material also includes a first venting structure having venting channels for conducting gases in directions parallel to the plane of the reinforcement layer and perpendicular thereto to allow gases to pass out of the molding material via the reinforcement layer during processing to prevent entrapment of gases.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8, 15, 16, and 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Rolston reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner identified the structure 52 in the Rolston reference as corresponding to the reinforcement resin material recited in Claim 1. However, the Rolston reference discloses only that the grooved body 52 “can be made of a variety of materials with a closed-cell, plastic foam material being suitable since it is relatively inexpensive and light in weight” (see Column 4, Lines 19-22). There is simply no disclosure whatsoever contained in the Rolston reference that the grooved body 52 can or should be formed from a reinforcement resin material, as specifically recited in Claim 1.

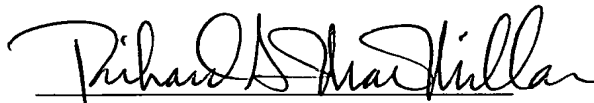
On the contrary, as stated at Column 2, Lines 36-38 of the Rolston reference, “FIG. 3 is a fragmentary view in transverse cross section of other product components, prior to being impregnated with resin” (emphasis added). Furthermore, as stated at Column 4, Lines 25-33 of the Rolston reference, “the grooves 56 extend from a resin supply through the mold to the evacuated end thereof, parallel to the direction of flow the resin would ordinarily take without the grooves. The channels 54, like the channels 44 of FIG. 2, are in constant communication with the interior surfaces of the mats 48 and 50 throughout their length to provide effective communication

therebetween and rapid penetration of the resin into the fibrous layers.” Thus, it is clear that the grooved body 52 functions to define passageways through resin flow and is not a reinforcement resin material, as specifically recited in Claim 1.

Similarly, there is no disclosure whatsoever contained in the Rolston reference that the grooved body 52 has an inherent tack that holds the fibrous reinforcement material in place, as also specifically recited in independent Claim 1. The Examiner has provided no support in the Rolston reference for this portion of the rejection.

The rejections of independent Claims 15 and 18 are deficient for the same reasons set forth above. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard S. MacMillan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "MacMillan" clearly legible.

Richard S. MacMillan
Reg. No. 30,085

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900